

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1060

By Faison

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Pat Head Summitt for thirty-eight years of excellence and stalwart leadership as coach of the University of Tennessee's Lady Volunteers basketball team.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause in its deliberations to recognize the many accomplishments of Pat Head Summitt, the all-time winningest coach in college basketball history and a community leader of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, growing up in the quaint community of Henrietta in Montgomery County, Pat Summitt developed strength, determination, and dedication as she worked the family farm alongside her three older brothers, with whom she enjoyed a healthy rivalry that would help hone her competitive edge; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Cheatham County High School, Coach Summitt earned her Bachelor of Science degree in physical education at the University of Tennessee Martin, where she played basketball and volleyball and, where she made her first U.S. national team in 1973, participating in the World University Games in the former Soviet Union; and

WHEREAS, upon graduating from UT Martin, she was to become a graduate assistant in the women's basketball program at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, when fortuitous circumstances led to her being offered the position as head coach of the Lady Volunteers; and

WHEREAS, seizing this incredible opportunity, Coach Summitt began her tenure there in 1974 and, as she worked to transform women's college basketball, she continued her graduate studies, completing her Master of Science degree in physical education and training in 1976; and

WHEREAS, in addition to her many responsibilities as head coach, she continued her playing career as a gold medalist for the United States in the 1975 Pan American Games in

Mexico, as a silver medalist on the 1976 United States Olympic Women's Basketball Team, which competed in Montreal, and as team coach in the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles, where she led a team of world class athletes to secure the gold medal; and

WHEREAS, Coach Summitt has been a game-changer in the lives of female athletes and a history-maker in all collegiate sports with a coaching career spanning nearly four decades and a record of wins exceeding those of the best NCAA coaches in the history of the sport; and

WHEREAS, with Coach Summitt's leadership, the Lady Vols have won sixteen Southeastern Conference Tournament Championships (1980, 1985, 1988, 1989, 1992, 1994, 1996, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2005, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2011, 2012), and sixteen times, the Lady Vols completed the regular season as Southeastern Conference Champions (1980, 1985, 1990, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2002, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2007, 2010, 2011); and

WHEREAS, Summitt's Lady Vols have a phenomenal record of NCAA tournament play, having made eighteen Final Four appearances, which is a record among all men's and women's coaches and bests the legendary John Wooden by six appearances. Tennessee under Summitt is the only program to be invited to every NCAA post-season women's tournament since its inception in 1982, and in twenty of the twenty-nine tournament events, the Lady Vols have received a Number 1 seed; and

WHEREAS, Coach Summitt has led the Lady Vols to eight NCAA Division Women's Basketball Championships (1987, 1989, 1991, 1996, 1997, 1998, 2007, 2008), the most national championships won by any team or coach in NCAA women's basketball history; and

WHEREAS, in keeping with championship performances of her teams, Coach Summitt is the winningest coach in men's and women's basketball and the only one to reach 1,000 wins. Her record is now at 1,098 wins and 208 losses, and she has eight times been selected as Southeastern Conference Coach of the Year (1993, 1995, 1998, 2001, 2003, 2004, 2007, 2011) and NCAA Coach of the Year seven times (1983, 1987, 1989, 1994, 1995, 1998, 2004); and

WHEREAS, her coaching acumen notwithstanding, Coach Summitt has always emphasized the importance of education, and every Lady Vols basketball player who has

completed her eligibility at the University of Tennessee has received a college degree or is in the process of completing degree requirements; and

WHEREAS, her awe-inspiring leadership has empowered forty-five of her former players to become coaches, twelve to become Olympians, and twenty to become Kodak All-Americans named to thirty-four teams; and

WHEREAS, the recipient of countless honors and accolades, Coach Summitt is a member of the Basketball Hall of Fame and of the inaugural class of the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame and the Basketball Hall of Fame, was named the Naismith Basketball Coach of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, won the prestigious Excellence in Sports Performance Yearly Award as best Coach/Manager in all sports, college and professional, was named eleventh, and the only woman, on the Sporting News' list of the fifty greatest coaches of all time in all of college basketball and football and in professional baseball, basketball, football, and hockey, was selected as *Sports Illustrated* 2011 Sportswoman of the Year, received an honorary doctorate from the United States Sports Academy, won the Women's National Basketball Association's Inspiring Coach Award, and won the coveted John R. Wooden Legends of Coaching lifetime achievement award, of which she is the only female recipient; and

WHEREAS, when she announced her diagnosis with early onset dementia-Alzheimer's Type in August 2011, Coach Summitt inspired a national campaign in the battle against this debilitating disease, beginning with a wave of support from fans in the declaration "We Back Pat" and proceeds pouring into Alzheimer's Tennessee and the University of Tennessee Medical Center; and

WHEREAS, in November 2011, Coach Summitt furthered this campaign by launching the Pat Summitt Foundation Fund to support cutting-edge Alzheimer's research; and

WHEREAS, her courageous efforts to bring awareness to this disease earned her the 2011 Mildred "Babe" Didrikson Zaharias Courage Award from the United States Sports Academy, the 2011 Maggie Dixon Courage Award, the Communicator of the Year Award from the Tennessee Communication Association, and a place on The Huffington Post's 2011 Game Changer list; and

WHEREAS, most recently she received recognition from President Barack Obama, who presented her with the prestigious Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor, for her invaluable contributions as a coach and an inspiring leader in the fight against Alzheimer's; and

WHEREAS, in order to focus her attention on this continuing battle, Pat Summitt has announced her retirement as head coach of the Lady Volunteers basketball team, whereupon she assumes the role of head coach emeritus and passes the reins to her longtime friend, former Lady Vols player, and assistant coach Holly Warlick; and

WHEREAS, for all the greatness she has shared with the many she has taught and shepherded through their collegiate careers and the thousands more she has touched yet never met, Coach Summitt has most inspired her son, Ross "Tyler" Summitt, with whom she went into labor during a recruiting trip in 1990 and who often accompanied his mother onto the court to cut down the net after a hard-earned victory; and

WHEREAS, her long and successful career in college basketball is a testament to the demanding expectations and unending encouragement of her father, the late Richard Head, and the love and support of her mother, Hazel Albright Head, and her sister, Linda; and

WHEREAS, with the sibling rivalry of childhood long since past, three of Coach Summitt's most ardent fans are her brothers, Charles, Kenneth, and Tommy, for whom the General Assembly has a special fondness inasmuch as he served in the House of Representatives during the 95<sup>th</sup> through the 103<sup>rd</sup> General Assemblies; and

WHEREAS, now at the close of her thirty-eight-year career as head coach of the University of Tennessee's Lady Volunteers basketball team, Pat Head Summitt has rightfully earned the respect and admiration of the women who have played for her, the coaching personnel who have worked alongside her, and the infinite fan base within as well as beyond the borders of Tennessee who have faithfully stood behind this athlete, coach, and inspirational human being; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper and, indeed, incumbent upon this General Assembly to laud the career of Coach Summitt and emblazon the truth of her magnificent career and her personal greatness across the annals of history of this great State; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Pat Head Summitt for her many accomplishments both on and off the court, thank her for her meritorious service to the State of Tennessee, and extend to her our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.